



# *THE CALIFORNIA SENATE*





# *Welcome to Your State Senate*

The 40 Members of the Senate of California are pleased that you have been able to visit the Capitol, and hope your trip will include looking in on a legislative session. If so, you will have an opportunity to observe the formalities of debate and voting which represent a popular, but incomplete, notion of what the lawmaking process is all about.

It is important to realize that only a part of the Legislature's labors takes place in the Senate and Assembly Chambers. Most of the shirtsleeve work is accomplished through our Standing Committees. Try to spend a few minutes in a committee room watching one of these public hearings. Senators are also kept busy the year round with continual study of new ideas for improving the laws by which all of us are governed,

As California's population and wealth have grown so has the complexity of its problems. To make a good law today requires much more information and analysis than in the past. A good law is born in a hard-fought atmosphere of give and take, after long weeks, months or even years of detailed scrutiny, close debate and painful redrafting. This awesome and often frustrating process was not meant to promote mere efficiency, but to prevent the hasty passage of ill-conceived and poorly drawn legislation,

We feel that understanding the legislative process is important to every person in California. For that reason we have prepared this booklet in an effort to make your visit more meaningful,

SINCERELY,

YOUR STATE SENATOR

# *The Seal of the Senate*



The Senate Seal is circular in shape, and the border bears the phrase "Seal of the Senate of the State of California." The center features a quill pen placed diagonally across an open scroll. On the top of the scroll is inscribed "LEGIS" (law) and the Roman numerals MDCCCL, designating 1850, the year California was admitted to the Union. Surrounding the pen and scroll is a cluster of California live oak leaves and acorns.

Any person who maliciously or for commercial purpose uses the seal is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The Senate adopted the seal in 1967.



"I will assume the undertaking on behalf of the crown of Castile, and will pledge my jewels to defray the expenses of it, if the funds in the treasury shall be found inadequate."

The statue embodying this sentiment now stands in the center of the rotunda of the Capitol of California. This statue is of heroic size. Queen Isabella is represented as sitting upon her throne with a thoughtful and glorified countenance, uttering the above words, which are assumed to be fairly historically correct. Columbus is kneeling at her left side, holding a sphere in his hand, by aid of which he is demonstrating his theory of the rotundity of the earth, while at the Queen's right kneels her personal page in wonderment.

This exquisite and valuable piece of statuary was executed by Larkin Goldsmith Mead, an American sculptor of international fame, in Florence, between the years 1868 and 1874. It was originally sold by the artist to Mrs. Legrande Lockwood of New York, who subsequently sold it to Darius Ogden Mills in 1882 for the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) gold, for the purpose of presentation to the State of California.



# *Symbol of Dedication and Integrity*

For 140 years the Senate's portrait of George Washington has been the chief ornament of chamber. The work of Jane Stuart, it is a copy of a well known painting by her father, Gilbert Stuart. It was acquired by Thomas Oliver Larkin (who was U.S. Consul at Monterey during California's Mexican Period) and presented to this house in 1854.

## **Composition of the Senate**

The number of Senators has been set by the State Constitution at 40, exactly half the size of the State Assembly.

Each Senator represents approximately 750,000 people.

Members of the Senate are elected to four-year terms, with those representing odd-numbered districts running for office during presidential election years and their colleagues from even-numbered districts standing for election at the same time as California's constitutional officers. Senators are limited to two terms.

## **The Biennial Session**

The Constitution specifies that the Legislature is to convene in regular session at noon on the first Monday of December in every even-numbered year, and is automatically adjourned on November 30 of the following even-numbered year.

Each year, before January 11, the Governor must submit his or her proposed State Budget for consideration by the Senate and Assembly. The Budget Bill must be enacted in both houses by midnight on June 15, annually.

The lawmakers are also empowered to legislate on any other subjects specified in the proclamation.

No bill can become law unless passed by both the Senate and Assembly. If the Governor vetoes such a bill it is dead, unless two-thirds of the members in each house vote to override his veto. A pocket veto, after adjournment, is not possible under California's Constitution.



*Over a century and a half have passed since the first State Senate was convened in an adobe building at Pueblo de San Jose, December 15, 1849.*

*Through the years, more than 1000 lawmakers have served as members of this body.*

*The present State Capitol at Sacramento was begun in 1860, first occupied by the Legislature in 1869 and completed in 1874. It was closed for safety reasons in 1976 and underwent extensive renovation and restoration.*

*This project completed in 1982, included returning the Senate Chamber to as near its original 19th Century appearance as possible and practical.*

## **Organization**

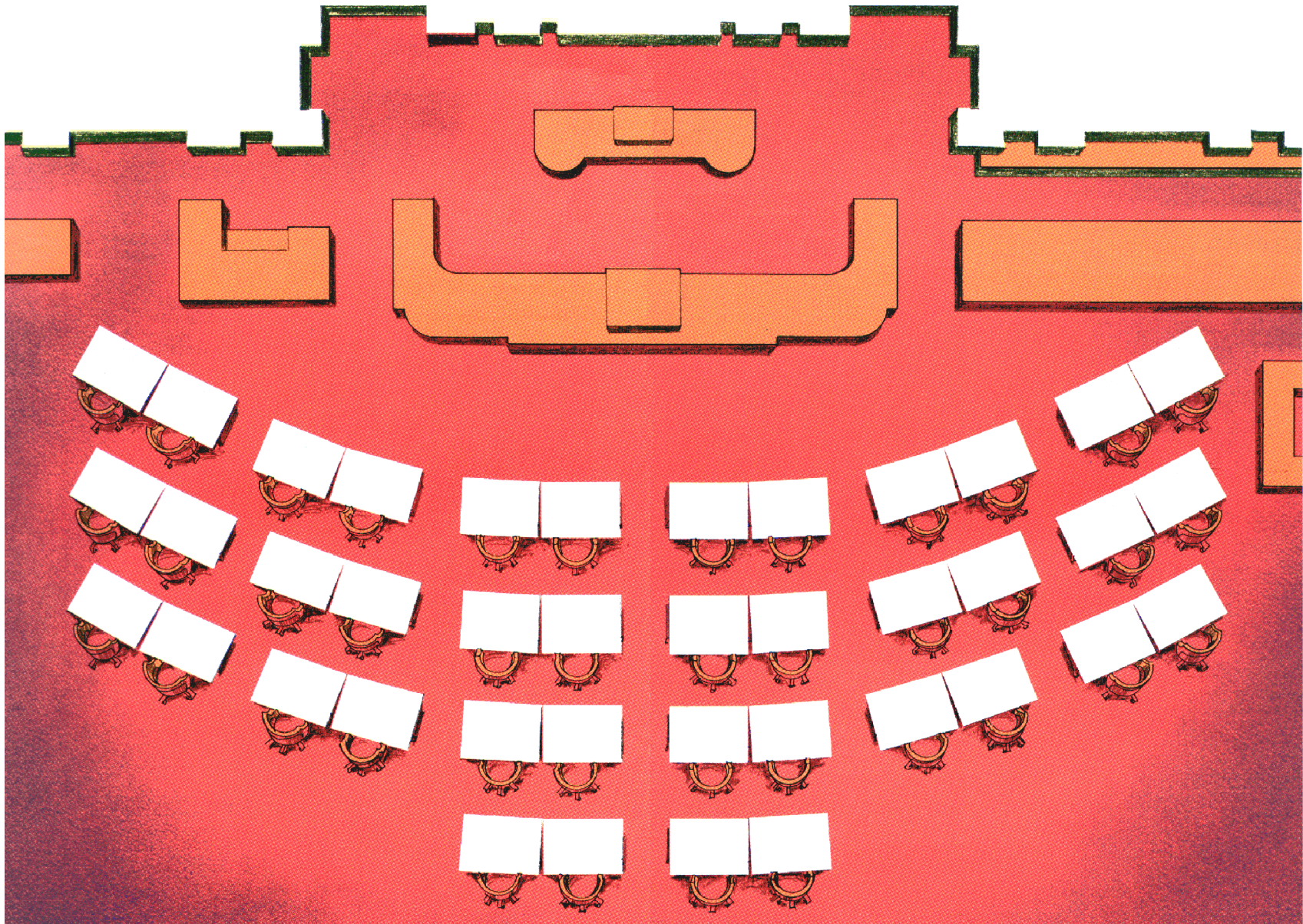
California's Lieutenant Governor serves as President of the Senate, though actual leadership of the "Upper House" is vested in the President pro Tempore. Chosen by his or her fellow Senators, the President pro Tempore serves as chairperson of the Rules Committee, which is elected from the Senate membership on the first day of a legislative session.

The Rules Committee appoints all committees, assigns bills to committees and bears responsibility for administering all business functions of the Senate including personnel and fiscal matters.

Two officers of the Senate are elected who are not members - the Secretary of the Senate and the Sergeant of Arms.



*Diagram of the Senate Chamber as seen from the Visitor's Gallery*











## THE SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

*From left to right: Senator Ruben Ayala, Senator Robert Beverly, Senator Bill Lockyer (Chairman), Senator Nicholas Petris, and Senator William Craven (Vice Chairman).*

### The Committee Structure

Senate committees are established by the Rules Committee early in each legislative session. Since it is impossible to discuss at length the merits and demerits of even a few bills on the Senate Floor, committees play the crucial role of assuring that each detail of proposed legislation is given a thorough hearing. After which, the committee members vote upon each bill, determine whether or not it should be sent to the floor for final consideration by the whole Senate.

Senators must spend most of their time in committee study. They devote long, irregular hours, often working nights and holidays, hearing witnesses and debating, from general policy to the finest details of punctuation, those bills assigned to their committees.

Committee Membership is determined basically by the interests of the individual Senators. Although no one Senator can be an expert in all fields, the majority of them, through training or inclination, are highly conversant in certain areas. All effort is made to see that each Senator is assigned the committees of his or her choice.

Each committee has available to it the competent and impartial technical assistance of the legal staff of the Legislative Counsel and the expert consultants of the Senate Office of Research.

Committee hearings are open to the public and the press. All votes and other actions taken in committees are recorded and published.



## The Senate Publications

Visitors to the Senate will notice the people working at the long desk facing the Senators. They are attaches of the Senate. Acting under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate, they compile:

*The Senate Daily Journal* (the certified, official record of each day's proceedings);

*The Senate Weekly History* with daily supplements (an up-to-date reference showing the current status of each piece of Senate legislation);

*The Senate Daily File* (the agenda or schedule of the day's business, together with public notice of bills set for committee hearings);

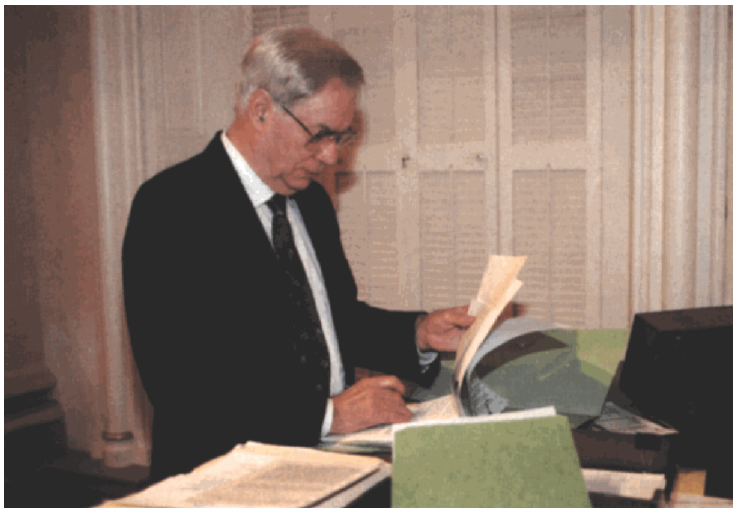
*The Legislative Handbook* (a pocket reference containing the Rules of the two houses, together with pictures and biographies of the members and other information of daily use to the Legislature);

Two other publications indispensable to the Legislature are;

*The Legislative Index* (prepared by the Legislative Counsel, is a subject matter index of all measures introduced, together with a table of code sections proposed to be affected).

*The Analysis of the Budget Bill* (prepared by the Legislative Analyst, is a detailed critique of the Administration's proposed budget).

Copies of these and other publications can be had from the Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.



## **Bills and Resolutions**

During the course of their daily sessions the Senators may consider a variety of legislative matters. These measures fall into five classes.

The first and most important are known as bills. These propose new law, or amend or repeal existing law. Bills can be introduced in either the Senate or Assembly and must be read by title three times in each house and voted upon. Most bills require 21 votes, a majority of the Senate, to pass. Those bills requiring an expenditure of state revenues, or matters of extreme urgency, however, must obtain 27 votes, two-thirds of the Senate. If a bill is passed by both houses, it is sent to the Governor for his approval or veto. Bills enacted by October 2nd of each year take effect the following January 1st. Urgency bills take effect immediately upon their enactment.

Falling into the second group are resolutions, the most important of these being constitutional amendments, which require a two-thirds vote in each house for adoption and must then be submitted to the people for ratification at the polls.

Concurrent resolutions relate to general matters of concern to both Senate and Assembly. They must be adopted by both houses to have effect.

Joint resolutions convey to the Federal Government the feelings of the Legislature on certain matters of public interest. They are also used to ratify amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Individual house resolutions relate to matters of particular concern to one house, and express its sentiments alone. They are adopted by that one house only.





## Rules and Regulations

To insure decorum, fairness, and order in their deliberations the members of the Senate are bound by Article IV of the Constitution of California. They further govern themselves by adopting Standing Rules (covering the detail of daily procedure), and Joint Rules (covering procedures for transactions between Senate and Assembly). Where these rules are silent on a particular point of parliamentary law the Senate is guided by *Mason's Manual*. This manual was compiled, after much research, by a former Assistant Secretary of the Senate who achieved nation-wide recognition as a parliamentary and constitutional authority.

A Senator who wants to speak must raise the microphone at his or her desk. The presiding officer will ask, "Senator Doe, for what purpose do you rise?" The Senator may then proceed on the matter under consideration, usually speaking for as long as he or she wishes. Ordinarily no record is kept of debates or speeches made on the Senate floor.

When all members who are interested in a bill have given their arguments, pro and con, the author asks for a vote, and the roll is called. Should the bill fail to receive the votes necessary for passage, and a number of members are absent from their seats, a "Call of the Senate" may be moved. At that time the Sergeant at Arms is directed to lock the chamber doors and bring in all absentee members. upon their arrival, the Call of the Senate is lifted and the roll completed.

A Senate rollcall is taken by voice vote. As the Secretary calls each name, that member answers "AYE" or "NO". After being tallied and announced, these votes are published in the *Senate Journal*. This tradition of casting their votes orally shows the solemn respect Senators hold for the act of making a law.





# California and its 58 Counties

## SENATE DISTRICTS

Names in CAPITALS denote counties which are wholly contained within the boundaries of the district.

### District   Counties

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | ALPINE, AMADOR, Butte,<br>CALAVERAS, EL DORADO,<br>LASSEN, MODOC, MONO,<br>NEVADA, PLACER, PLUMAS<br>SIERRA, YUBA |
| 2.  | DEL NORTE, HUMBOLDT,<br>LAKE, MENDOCINO, NAPA,<br>Solano, Sonoma  |
| 3.  | MARIN, San Francisco, Sonoma  |
| 4.  | Butte, COLUSA, GLENN<br>Sacramento, SHASTA, SISKIYOU,<br>Solano, SUTTER, TEHAMA,<br>TRINITY, YOLO                 |
| 5.  | Sacramento, San Joaquin   |
| 6.  | Sacramento  |
| 7.  | Alameda, Contra Costa   |
| 8.  | SSan Francisco, San Mateo   |
| 9.  | Alameda, Contra Costa   |
| 10. | Alameda, Santa Clara  |
| 11. | San Mateo, Santa Clara  |
| 12. | Fresno, Madera, MARIPOSA,<br>MERCED, San Joaquin,<br>STANISLAUS, TUOLUMNE   |
| 13. | Santa Clara   |
| 14. | Fresno, Kern, Tulare  |
| 15. | MONTEREY, SAN BENITO<br>Santa Clara, SANTA CRUZ   |
| 16. | Fresno, Kern, KINGS, Madera, Tulare   |

### District   Counties

- |     |  |
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| 17. | INYO, Kern, Los Angeles<br>San Bernardino  |
| 18. | SAN LUIS OBISPO, SANTA<br>BARBARA, Ventura |
| 19. | Los Angeles                                |
| 20. | Los Angeles                                |
| 21. | Los Angeles                                |
| 22. | Los Angeles                                |
| 23. | Los Angeles                                |
| 24. | Los Angeles                                |
| 25. | Los Angeles                                |
| 26. | Los Angeles                                |
| 27. | Los Angeles                                |
| 28. | Los Angeles                                |
| 29. | Los Angeles                                |
| 30. | Los Angeles                                |
| 31. | Riverside, San Bernardino                  |
| 32. | Los Angeles, San Bernardino                |
| 33. | Orange                                     |
| 34. | Orange                                     |
| 35. | Orange                                     |
| 36. | Riverside, San Diego                       |
| 37. | IMPERIAL, Riverside, San Diego             |
| 38. | Orange, San Diego                          |
| 39. | San Diego                                  |
| 40. | San Diego                                  |



The Great Seal of the State of California was adopted by the Constitutional Convention of 1849. The Roman goddess of wisdom, Minerva, has at her feet a grizzly bear and clusters of grapes representing wildlife and agricultural richness. A miner works near the busy Sacramento River, below the Sierra Nevada peaks. The Greek motto *Eureka* (I have found it) refers to either the miner's discovery of gold or the expected entrance of California as a state of the Union. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars representing the number of states with California's anticipated admission in 1850.

This stained glass version of the *Great Seal of California* is mounted in the corridor ceiling just outside the massive, black walnut doors of the Senate Chamber.